

HERITAGE COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

June 3, 2010

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the City Council Chambers at 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, June 3, 2010, at 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates:

Chairperson Philip Donovan called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Donovan, Vice-Chairperson Frederick Richards, and members Steve Shurtleff, Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Carol Durgy Brooks, James McConaha, and Robert V. Johnson, II. City Planner Douglas Woodward was also present. Absent from the meeting were Committee Members Dr. Bryant Tolles and Marilyn Fraser.

Chairperson Donovan elevated the alternate members to full member status for the meeting.

2. Minutes of the May 6, 2010 meeting:

The Commission considered the minutes of the May 6, 2010, Heritage Commission meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Shurtleff to accept the minutes as presented and seconded by Ms. Hengen. Chairperson Donovan asked if there was any discussion regarding the minutes. The motion accepting the minutes of the May 6, 2010, meeting passed unanimously.

3. New Business:

- a. *Consideration of a NHDHR request for an archaeological survey of land at 2 Whitney Road as part of a NHDES permit application*

Mr. Woodward explained the background of the NHDES permitting to relocate a drainageway, and that the NH Division of Historical Resources has expressed the need for an archeological survey as the location near the Merrimack River has the potential for being the site of a native American settlement. Mr. McConaha indicated an interest in learning about the results of the survey, particularly if it yields any useful information about native American history along the river in Concord.

- b. *Consideration of a legal notice pursuant to Section 106 on a cell tower installation on St. Paul's land on Silk Farm Road just north of I-89, requesting information on potential effects on historic properties.*

Mr. Woodward explained that the proposed cell tower is to be located on land of St. Paul's School on Silk Farm Road just north of I-89 where the road has been closed to vehicular traffic. Ms. Hengen indicated that if the tower was in the viewshed of the historic farms at the intersection of Silk Farm and Dunbarton Roads, then that would be of concern. Mr. McConaha noted that it is better to have a crane to display the proposed height rather than a balloon, as balloon tests are affected by wind and weather. Mr. Richards expressed his view that cell towers are now a necessary part of the landscape, and that he did not consider this matter worth discussing any further.

- c. *Discussion relative to the Commission's status as a "local land use board" when reviewing applications in the Historic District and applications for Demolition Delay, and the requirement for members to meet a juror standard or to otherwise disqualify themselves from participation in any decision making.*

The Commission agreed to defer discussion of this matter.

4. Old Business:

f. *Demolition Review Committee Report on 251 Pleasant Street:*

Chairperson Donovan stated that David Doyle of Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinic met with the Committee and indicated that the Clinic was not interested in retaining any property with any health issues. There have been offers to use the white farm house and barn. Dartmouth Hitchcock is going to advertise the buildings offering them for removal from the premises for \$1.00 provided that any responding party is bonded and insured.

b. *Discussion of the Concord School District's decisions on the Elementary School consolidation plan*

Mr. Richards reported that the Demolition Review Committee had walked through all seven residential properties slated for demolition at the Kimball School site. They were accompanied by Steve Bedard on this walk. The buildings are in generally good shape other than some asbestos, although some damage had been inflicted on these properties by the company conducting the environmental reconnaissance. Matt Cashman of the School District had spoken to house movers, but moving these homes would be an enormous undertaking due to the size of the homes.

Mr. McConaha noted that the scale of the proposed demolition is greater than anything since Urban Renewal. He expressed the view that the alternative is to save the properties and find another site for the school.

Chairperson Donovan cautioned that the Commission “didn’t have a big hammer”, that they had already talked to the District as well as the NH Department of Education, so that a public outcry was the last option available to save the buildings.

Publicity for the Demolition Review hearings was discussed. Mr. McConaha proposed a full-page advertisement in the *Monitor*. Mr. Johnson suggested 4-foot by 8-foot signs be posted in front of each building proposed for demolition. A “My Turn” article for the *Monitor* was also discussed.

Mr. Johnson noted that experts have determined that the buildings are historically significant and that the Commission is on record of being in favor of saving the buildings. He feels that large signs in front of each building will help to draw the public’s attention to the matter.

The discussion then turned to the Commission getting its position known to the public. Mr. McConaha made a motion to have the Chair designate two members to draft an article to submit to the Monitor about the National Register significance of the properties slated for demolition. Ms. Hengen seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Johnson moved that the Commission request that the City provide ten 4-foot x 8-foot signs indicating that the property (where the sign is posted) is scheduled for demolition. Mr. Richards seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. McConaha volunteered to draft the article for the *Monitor*, and Ms. Hengen volunteered to proof and edit the article.

There being no further business or discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Brooks and seconded by Mr. Richard to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Douglas G. Woodward
City Planner